(d) whether Government intends to open such an Institutes in Rajasthan and by when; and

(e) what has been Government's policy in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Government has recently established HIT at Allahabad as a Central Institute.

(b) Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IIITM) has been established at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh with a focus on Management and Information Technology.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Institutes at Allahabad and Gwalior have to first consolidate and become more effective so that students from all over the country including Rajasthan could take advantage of the facilities that exist there.

There is, as such, no proposal at present to set up such an Institute in Rajasthan.

Denial of permission to attend IT conference

2984. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have denied permission to some Chief Ministers and Ministers of certain States for visiting US to attend the IT conference convened by Microsoft of Mr. Bill Gates; and

(b) if so, the details of the request and the reasons for the denial ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Microsoft had extended invitations to the State Governments to attend the Government Leaders' Conference at Seattle in USA from 2nd to 4th April, 2000. References in this regard were received by the Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India from Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Maharashtra and Ministers from Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The Department of Personnel and Training, however, did not concur to the proposal and the Ministry of Information Technology had brought this fact to the notice of the concerned State Governments while simultaneously conveying its No Objection from technical angle.